

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Hudson City School
other names/site number Hudson School; Hudson Community Center; Brown's Chapel
Methodist Episcopal Church; Hudson Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number approximately 1 mile NW of MO 52 and Hwy. W [n/a] not for publication
city or town Appleton City [X] vicinity
state Missouri code MO county Bates code 013 zip code 64724

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this
[x] nomination [] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties
in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR
Part 60. In my opinion, the property [x] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this
property be considered significant [] nationally [] statewide [x] locally. (See continuation sheet for additional
comments [].)

Claire F. Blackwell 20 Aug 02
Signature of certifying official/Title Claire F. Blackwell/Deputy SHPO Date
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments [].)

Signature of certifying official/Title

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is: Signature of the Keeper Date

[] entered in the National Register
See continuation sheet [].
[] determined eligible for the National
Register
See continuation sheet [].
[] determined not eligible for the National
Register.
[] removed from the National Register
[] other, explain see continuation sheet [].

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-state
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

contributing	noncontributing
2	0 building
0	0 sites
0	0 structures
0	0 objects
2	0 total

Name of related multiple property listing.

N/A

Number of contributing resources
previously listed in the National Register.

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

RELIGION/religious facility
EDUCATION/school

Current Functions

SOCIAL/clubhouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification

OTHER: One-room schoolhouse

see continuation sheet [].

Materials

foundation Sandstone
walls Weatherboard
roof Metal
other
see continuation sheet [].

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet [x]

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history

☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☐ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

Property is:

☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ **B** removed from its original location.

☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.

☐ **D** a cemetery.

☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ **F** a commemorative property.

☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

Education

Periods of Significance

ca. 1911-1952

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person(s)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

☐ previously listed in the National Register

☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State Agency

☐ Federal Agency

☐ Local Government

☐ University

☐ Other:

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

A. Zone	Easting	Northing	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	404545	4228725			
C. Zone	Easting	Northing	D. Zone	Easting	Northing

[] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title See continuation sheet
organization _____ date _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Trustees of the Hudson Country Culture Club (Maxine Piepmeier, contact person)
street & number Route 3, Box 204 telephone (660) 476-2128
city or town Appleton City state Missouri zip code 64724

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Section 7 Page 1

Hudson City School
Bates County, Missouri

Summary:

Hudson City School is a frame, one-room schoolhouse located in a rural area approximately one mile northwest of the junction of Missouri 52 and Highway W in Bates County, Missouri. The location is about three miles west-northwest of Appleton City, the nearest town.¹ The cross-gabled building was constructed in 1891, as a Methodist Episcopal church. In 1911, the church sold the property to School District No. 83 and it was reconfigured as a schoolhouse. A row of 10 closely spaced windows in the north elevation was part of the church-to-schoolhouse conversion, with new windows added adjacent to the church windows for improved lighting. A ca. 1900 photograph indicates that in most other respects, the form of the weatherboard-sided, white-painted building is unchanged from when it was a church. The building measures 45-1/2 feet at its longest point from east to west and 38-1/2 feet from north to south. It has a metal roof and sits on a foundation of sandstone blocks. A lone brick chimney pierces the west gable end. The main entrance, with a transom, is in a small vestibule on the southeast where the two wings intersect. The east gabled end is blind but a small painted sign near the top reads HUDSON CITY SCHOOL DIST. NO. 83. Another small sign near the entrance reads HUDSON COMMUNITY CENTER. A small open porch with a shed roof fills the space where the wings intersect in the southwest corner. Interior space consists of a classroom, kitchen, two small rooms and a small hallway. In the 1970s, ceilings were lowered and other modest alterations took place but the original plaster walls and ceilings are intact. Original doors and much original woodwork is present and visible. The blackboard is intact, and in fact the interior is essentially unaltered since the building was last used as a schoolhouse in 1952. Overall, integrity is excellent. Considering its age and limited maintenance, the building is in relatively good condition although some deterioration is evident, especially along the base, and the paint is peeling. A frame privy off the northwest corner dates from when the building was used as a schoolhouse and is counted as a contributing resource. A well with its original working pump is located off the southwest corner but is not counted.

Elaboration:

Hudson City School stands on its original one-acre tract in what had been Block 18 of the Hudson City townsit. The east wall of the building is 62 feet west of a gravel-surfaced county road (originally Hudson City's Main Street), approximately a quarter mile north of Missouri 52. This road connects Missouri 52 with an east-west section line road between Townships 39 and 40 North. Currently, neither of these Bates County roads is named or numbered. Mature trees which are adjacent to pasture land line the other three sides of the fenced, largely open schoolyard. The main entrance to Hudson City School faces east toward the gravel road.

The east elevation of the schoolhouse is dominated by a 24½-foot wide blind gable end. Siding throughout the building is white-painted weatherboard. The angle of the gable is fairly steep. Wide trim boards below the roofline are perched atop corner boards with simple capitals. Similar corner boards are found throughout the building. Centered in the gable near the apex, the school name is within a segmentally arched enframement. The black letters are painted onto a white wooden panel insert. A hooded metal light fixture emerges from the siding below the panel. The vestibule containing the transomed main entrance is recessed several feet from the gable end, under a sloping roof that flows from the main roof but at a somewhat gentler angle. There are two stone steps with a metal railing. The vestibule door is old but not original. It consists of five horizontal panels. Door hardware includes a white porcelain doorknob. Originally, the entrance was wider with a pedimented two-part transom and two tall, narrow doors. The exposed east portion of the side wing contains a double-hung 4/4 window. Elongated, rectangular cubes of sandstone comprise the foundation.

¹ Appleton City, the town nearest the school, is in adjacent St. Clair County.

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Hudson City School
Bates County, Missouri

The north elevation contains 10 narrow, closely-spaced, double-hung 4/4 windows which were the primary source of classroom illumination. The windows have flat, cornice-like heads. At least half of the windows appear to have been added when the building was converted from church to schoolhouse. Vernacular church buildings in Missouri typically had about four windows to a side. The added windows are most obvious when viewed from inside Hudson City School because unlike the original units, their frames are comprised of plain rather than molded boards. This bank of windows is not centered in the facade; the amount of space is greatest at the west end where the building's only chimney is located. Metal guttering is attached along this elevation with a downspout at the northwest corner.

The west elevation of the classroom wing contains two windows which are similar to those in the north elevation, but are widely spaced. South of the classroom wing, the south wall of the intersecting gable continues for 14 feet. This wall is recessed approximately five feet, creating space for an open porch. This porch has an old concrete slab floor and a shed roof supported by square wood posts with turned middle sections. Near the south corner is an entrance containing a windowed door with four vertical panels in two rows in the lower half.

The south facade is somewhat more complex than the other three elevations. From left to right are the open porch, the gabled end of the south wing, the side of the vestibule and the exterior wall of the classroom. The south wing is slightly wider than the classroom wing, measuring 27½ feet. A door similar to the door in the main entrance, with five horizontal panels, is in the small side portion of the classroom wing (at the rear of the porch). The south gabled end contains two evenly spaced double-hung 4/4 windows which are a unique type in the building. Unlike the other 14 windows in Hudson City School, these are larger and are surmounted by shallow wooden pediments with drip moldings, adding a modest classical touch. The side wall of the vestibule is windowless. Centered in the side wall of the classroom portion is a single double-hung 4/4 window with a flat arch.

Inside, well-crafted tongue and groove wainscoting lines the lower portion of interior walls. This wainscoting is topped with a chair rail molding similar to that used on exterior window heads. Some doorways are framed by ornate moldings with bullseye corner blocks. Floors are tongue-and-groove hardwood. In the 1970s, faux wood paneling was installed above the wainscoting in the blind east wall of the classroom and the ceiling was lowered. The original plaster ceiling is intact above the chipboard panels. These are the only known interior alterations. At some point, the schoolhouse was wired for electricity and the old wiring is intact.

The 6 x 6-foot vestibule serves as a coatroom and entrance hall. Two small cloakrooms with panel doors open off the vestibule on the south. Access to the 24 x 45-foot classroom is through either of two entrances, one off the rear of the vestibule and the other off the kitchen which is directly west of the vestibule. A single large, ornate molded enframement with bullseye cornerblocks serves both doorways, which are separated by about five feet of wall space. The black slate chalkboard, consisting of three rectangular sections within a decorative molding with a bottom ledge for chalk and erasers, is on the south wall of the classroom. On the west end, the interior brick chimney is covered in plaster to match the walls. A historic coal/wood stove of black iron ("Bridge & Beach Mfg. Co., St. Louis") is connected to the chimney with a flue. Furniture includes old bench seats, tables and a piano but no individual desks.

The kitchen is relatively primitive. Along the south wall, a simple counter rests on a wainscoting-covered framework. There is a sink but no running water in the building. Water was carried into the schoolhouse from a well southwest of the kitchen. A braced shelf is above the counter. A doorway at the west end of the kitchen opens onto the back porch. The enframement consists of plain boards with bullseye corner blocks.

A single-stall outhouse stands approximately 20 feet from the northwest corner of the schoolhouse and is counted as contributing. It is constructed of vertical boards and its gable roof is covered with wood shingles. The entrance

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Hudson City School
Bates County, Missouri

faces south. Located about 20 feet southwest of the kitchen, a well with a working pump is an uncounted ancillary object.

If Brown's Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church was ever a vernacular gable-end building (the 24 x 45-foot classroom portion), there is no evidence of it today. A ca. 1900 photograph (when it was still a church) and a ca. 1911 photograph (when it was a schoolhouse) show a side wing and vestibule substantially like those on the present building. As a church, the building has been described as "little short of magnificent" in comparison to other country churches of the period. It consisted of "a small vestibule, a vestry, and a large sanctuary. It was well furnished with pews whose seats were on hinges which allowed them to be turned up against the backs. There was a pulpit along with three tall pulpit chairs upholstered in black leather. Two large chandeliers each with six coal oil lamps hung from the ceiling. Near the top of each window was a lamp with a reflector back of it."² The vestry presumably was in the side wing.

Although some deterioration is evident, Hudson City School is otherwise a good local example of an intact one-room schoolhouse in Bates County.

²Bertha Richards. "The Hudson Methodist Church." typewritten paper dated 1979.

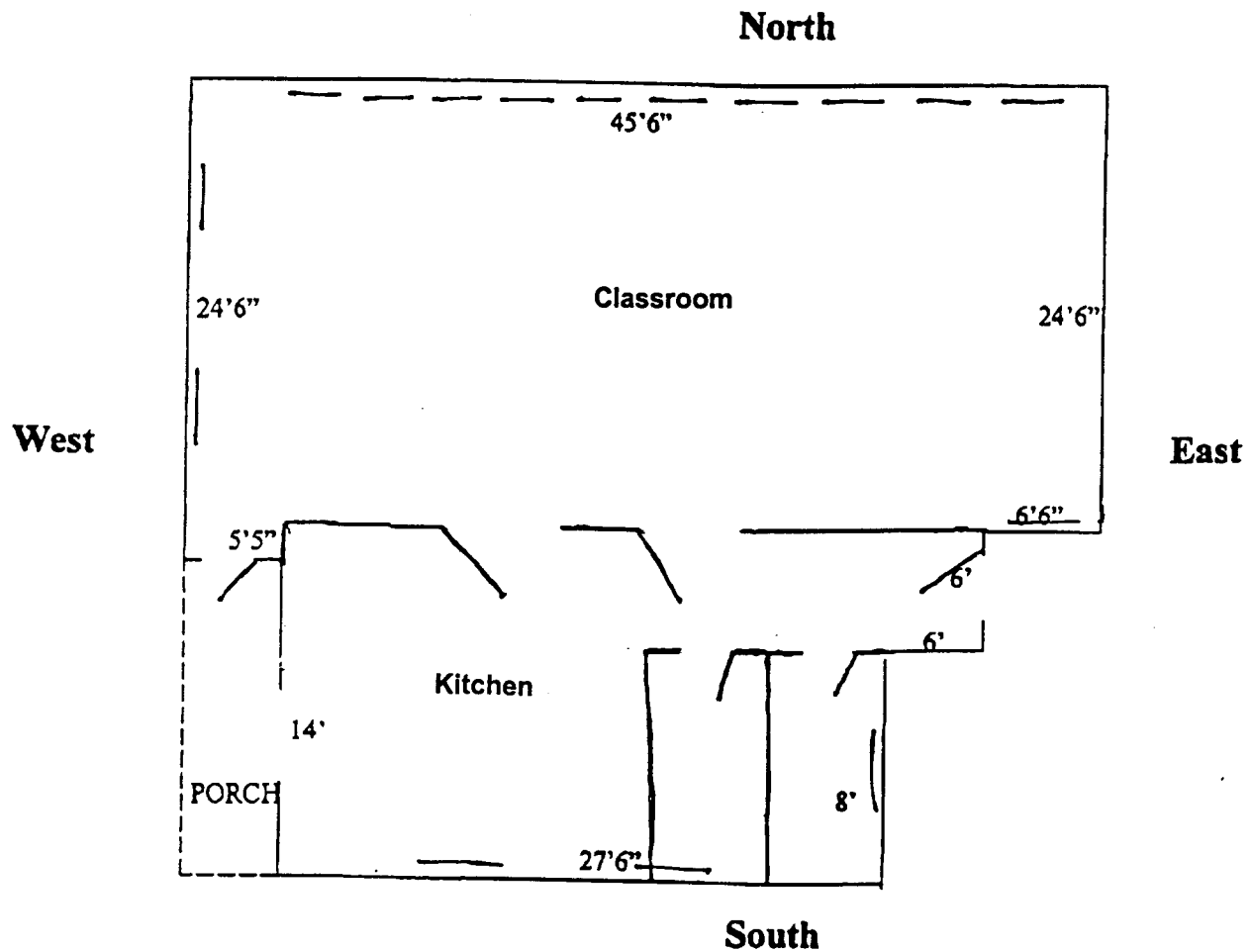
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Hudson City School
Bates County, Missouri

Floor Plan



Not to Scale

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Hudson City School
Bates County, Missouri

SUMMARY:

Hudson City School in Bates County, Missouri, began as a church and was converted into a schoolhouse. It is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A with local significance in the area of Education. After its construction in 1891 as Brown's Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church, the property was used for religious purposes for the next 20 years. In 1911, the building was purchased by Hudson School District No. 83 and outfitted for use as a one-room schoolhouse.³ For 41 years prior to consolidation, this frame building was the place where children who lived in southeastern Bates County's School District No. 83 came in pursuit of a basic education. As an approved rural school in Missouri, the Hudson City School exemplified an ideal level of achievement according to statewide standards.⁴ Like other one-room schoolhouses, the Hudson City School was central to community life in the rural area that it served. In 1952, the schoolhouse was sold by Reorganized School District R-9 to the Hudson Country Culture Club which retains ownership today. The property is used as a community building and 4-H Club meeting center. The church-to-schoolhouse reconfiguration added windows in the north elevation, but the appearance of Hudson City School today is essentially unchanged since the first classes assembled there in 1911. Hudson City has largely faded into oblivion but a sense of the building's past is easily conveyed and its rural setting is unchanged except for becoming even more rural. The period of significance, 1911-1952, reflects the years during which Hudson City School functioned as a one-room schoolhouse.

ELABORATION:

Hudson City was platted on April 10, 1867, in anticipation of being on the route of the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad. But when the railroad reached the area three years later, the track passed about three miles east of Hudson City. There, the new railroad town of Appleton City prospered and Hudson City, three miles distant, quickly declined. In 1871, 25 residences, two stores and half of a Presbyterian church building (the other half burned) were moved by mules and oxen from Hudson City to Appleton City. A few families remained in Hudson City, however, and in 1891 a new church building--Brown's Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church--was erected there by the local Methodists and Presbyterians. The church site was purchased for \$100 on July 14, 1891, from Milton and Jael Belisle.⁵ Because both Methodists and Presbyterians as well as other local denominations used the building for services, in practice the Hudson Methodist Church was essentially a "community church." The location, on the west side of Main Street, was directly opposite an earlier Hudson City schoolhouse located on the east side of Main Street. Prior to construction of the new church, religious services were held in the old schoolhouse which is no longer extant.⁶

³ Bertha Richards, "The Hudson Methodist Church," 1979.

⁴ In the first year in its "new" building, Hudson City School was one of only a handful of rural schools in Bates County to be so-approved.

⁵ Deed of trust filed in Bates County, Missouri, on July 16, 1891.

⁶ The History of Cass and Bates Counties, Missouri, St. Joseph, Mo.: National Historical Company, 1883, pp.839-840; Paul Eye, "History of Hudson City," a paper written for a Missouri history class at the Appleton City High School in November 1939; and Richards, op cit. In addition to the 1883 and 1918 county histories. Eye's bibliography cites interviews with Arthur McElhaney, Mrs. Rolla Hall, Garry Pratt and Harry Pratt (who likely were Hudson City "oldtimers").

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The new church at Hudson City is said to have been built under the tutelage of the Appleton City Methodist Church's pastor, the Rev. Chris. It was named Brown's Chapel after John Brown, who "did most of the work in planning and erecting the building" and also donated \$500 to the project. Compared to other country churches in southeastern Bates County in the late 19th century, Brown's Chapel was described as "little short of magnificent." Services were usually held on Sunday afternoons and were well attended. Appleton City Methodist pastors who also served Brown's Chapel included Rev. Thompson, Rev. Pierce and Rev. Gilbreath. By the time the church was sold to School District No. 83 in 1911, two decades after the first services, the congregation had dwindled considerably. The church received \$300 for the building. This money was donated to the Appleton City Methodist Episcopal Church.⁷

The Jeffersonian concept of a free public education was not realized in most parts of America until the mid-19th century. In Missouri, as in much of the country, implementation of public education was slow in coming although the Constitution of 1820 declared that "the children of the poor shall be taught free." In 1839, the Geyer Act was a serious early attempt to incorporate Jefferson's ideas on state-supported education in Missouri. Geyer was largely ineffective, but in 1853 the General Assembly passed a new education law that, finally, created a workable framework for public education in Missouri. By 1860, despite a slow start in the battle against illiteracy, approximately one of every five Missourians was attending school. After the Civil War, public education was greatly expanded in Missouri as elsewhere. The concept of free schools, once resisted as a form of charity, was clearly gaining support.⁸

Before the widespread consolidation of school districts, and before the busing of rural students to centralized schools in the larger towns became standard procedure in the 1950s and 1960s, one-room country schools were widely distributed across the American rural landscape. Thousands of such schools, each serving only a handful of students from the immediate vicinity, made sense in the years before paved roads and automobiles when most students had to walk or ride horseback to school. In Missouri, these relatively independent rural school districts were established wherever there was a need. State law required only that there be 20 students living in the district and that the school board meet annually to set the tax levy and school term for the following year. By 1913, there were approximately 212,000 one-room schools in the United States and half of all the schoolchildren in the nation attended them.⁹

The first "schoolhouse" in Bates County dates from August 1821, the same month and year that Missouri achieved statehood. It was a log building erected at Harmony Mission by the United Foreign Missionary Society "to educate and Christianize" Osage Indian children. This church-school, located on the Marais des Cygnes Branch of the Osage River three miles northwest of Papinville in southeastern Bates County, was among the earliest schools of any type in territorial Missouri. Bates County schools offering a more traditional approach to education apparently date from the 1840s, but school conditions in the county were relatively undeveloped through the pre-Civil War years. (The first school in the immediate vicinity of Hudson City was taught at the home of Richard Stratton, a local resident, in 1843.) During the decades following the Civil War, Missouri's public school system was rapidly expanded and there was an increased concern with standards in education. As early as 1869, a teachers' institute was organized in Butler in Bates County. By 1870, most of Bates County had been organized into school districts

⁷ Richards, op cit.

⁸ Claude A. Phillips, A History of Education in Missouri, Jefferson City, Missouri: The Hugh Stephens Printing Co., 1911, pp. 1-2; Duane Meyer, The Heritage of Missouri, St. Louis: State Publishing Co., Inc., 1970, pp. 287-292.

⁹ Andrew Gulliford, America's Country Schools, Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1984, p.35.

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Hudson City School
Bates County, Missouri

and some 78 schoolhouses had been constructed. Most of these early schools were supported by public school funds; others were subscription schools, operated from three to six months each year. In 1902, a systematic course of study was adopted for strictly rural schools as well as small schools in villages. Among other things it stressed the use of literature which made school libraries a necessity.¹⁰ Seven years later, a system for approving rural schools was adopted by the State Department of Education.

While some rural districts apparently either resisted or struggled to comply with the various requirements for approval, the Hudson City School took them in stride. In its first year of operation in the former Brown's Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church, the Hudson City School was one of only five schools in Bates County (out of 133 total districts) to meet the new standards for approval. In addition to Hudson School District No. 83, the others approved in the year ending June 30, 1912 were McKinley District No. 2, Crawford District No. 3, Coleville District No. 19 and Mulberry District No. 65. Mary A. Pulliam was the Hudson school teacher in that year, 1911-12. Miss Pulliam, one of 10,000 rural teachers in Missouri that year received a monthly salary of \$50. This was \$10 more than the average for a female teacher in Bates County.¹¹

Approval as a rural school was important and not all that easy to gain. Twelve minimum requirements had to be met. They included such things as having a school term of at least eight months (the term had been only seven months long between 1889 and 1909), employing a teacher holding a certificate higher than third grade county, and compliance with a library law for the purchase of supplementary books using a funding formula based on the number of pupils. That the Hudson City School was on a relatively short list of schools meeting all twelve of the requirements in 1911-12, its first year of operation in the converted church, attests to the overall soundness of the district. (Fewer than 300 rural schools statewide were approved for the school year ending June 30, 1911, the last year in which classes were held in the old Hudson School building, and their names were not published in the Sixty-Second Report of the Public Schools of the State of Missouri.) The group of approved schools varied over the years. In some school years (1926-27, for example), apparently no rural Bates County schools were approved because none are listed in the Report, but the Hudson City School was probably approved more often than not. The Hudson City School was one of only 19 Bates County schools listed as approved in 1918 (along with McKinley, Mingo, Hackler, Olive, Fairview No. 32, Silverdale, Harmony, Tripp, Miller, Black, Summit Center, Hazel Dell, Prairie City, North Muddy, Montgomery, Maple Grove, Herrell and Virginia No. 69). In 1927-28, Hudson was one of only three approved rural facilities in Bates County, along with Passaic Consolidated No. 11, Star No. 88 and Tygard No. 74. In 1927-28, the Hudson City School's teacher was Pauling Robinson. Clearly, the Hudson City School exemplified an ideal level of achievement for a rural school district according to statewide standards.¹²

There were approximately 10,000 school districts in Missouri when Hudson City School District No. 83 moved across Main Street into the former Methodist Episcopal Church in 1911. Some other Bates County school statistics from 1911: One hundred 39 of the districts were in Bates County. Altogether, the county had 7,255 students. Most Bates County school districts (62) reported between 30 and 50 students, and the Hudson City

¹⁰ The Hudson City School library consisted of 146 volumes in 1912.

¹¹ W. O. Atkeson, History of Bates County, Missouri, Topeka: Historical Publishing Company, 1918, pp. 201-210; Sixty-Third Report of the Public Schools of the State of Missouri, Jefferson City: Hugh Stephens Printing Company, 1912, pp. 35-37, 42. (The chapter on public schools in the 1918 county history was written by Arthur C. Moreland, county superintendent.)

¹² Sixty-Third Report of the Public Schools of the State of Missouri, op cit.; Atkeson, p. 208; Seventy-Eighth Report of the Public Schools of the State of Missouri, Jefferson City: Hugh Stephens Printing Company, 1927, p. 20.

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Hudson City School
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school was in this category with an enrollment of 39 in 1911. Districts with between 20 and 30 students were a distant second (36). While all but nine of the county's districts had libraries, only eight were in compliance with every aspect of the state's still relatively new library law. Bates County schools received a total state apportionment of \$13,159 in 1911, but apparently none of them received any special aid from the state although 42 other counties did.

As the "new" Hudson City School was being readied for its first term in 1911, State Superintendent of Public Schools William P. Evans described interest in rural education as continuing to grow: "The need of better sanitary conditions, the introduction of elementary agriculture and industrial work in the elementary course of study, thereby bringing the school life of the pupil into closer relation with his life on the farm, is being felt by teachers and patrons alike. Large sums of money are expended for libraries, improved systems of heating, some simple apparatus, repairs, providing pure water supply, new seats, and other necessary equipment.....While much has been accomplished, much remains to be done."¹³

The old Bates County Record used to publish a column devoted to county school news. The column was written by County School Superintendent P. M. Allison. On October 7, 1911, shortly after the Hudson City Methodist Church became the Hudson City schoolhouse, Allison's column in the Record reported: "Hudson City has an enrollment of 39 and all were present and doing good work. These people have a new schoolhouse and one of the best in the county and I am sure no other is better. Miss Mary Pulliam is teacher and is doing fine work for them. She receives \$45 per month." On November 11, 1911, the Record commented: "Hudson has a good attendance and everything is moving very nicely and the work is satisfactory in every way. They have a fine building and have sent me their picture for which I wish to thank them. I appreciate this and will ask Supt. Evans to place it in his report. Miss Mary A. Pulliam is teacher." On September 14, 1912, the Record said: "Hudson has an enrollment of 35 and 33 were present. The teacher, Miss Mary Pulliam, is wishing for fewer tardy marks this year. Miss Pulliam takes quite an interest in their Improvement Club at this place. They have a good building and a heating plant. They pay their teacher \$50 per month [a pay raise of \$5 for Miss Pulliam]."

As the consolidation movement gained momentum, Missouri was at the forefront. As early as 1901, the General Assembly authorized the development of consolidated school districts in Missouri. The main theory behind consolidation (which resulted in the closing of Hudson City School in 1952) was that children in rural areas would be better off in larger districts where they could be more completely separated according to grade level. Consolidation became increasingly feasible as transportation advances made it unnecessary for schools to be within walking distance of their students. When it became obvious that many newly-created high schools were struggling due to low enrollments, financial incentives offered by the state quickened the pace of consolidation. Although nearly 6,000 one-room schools were still in use in Missouri as late as 1946, most were considered liabilities by educators of the time and their end was near.¹⁴ After World War II, the rate of consolidation of school districts in rural areas increased. In 1952 when the Hudson City School closed, Hudson and 10 other one-room schools were consolidated into the new Hudson R-9 School District. They were: Haynes, Reynard, McDavett, Cumpton, Oak Grove, Pleasant Gap, Hazel Dell, Brush College, Rich Valley and Rabbit Ridge. (The new Hudson

¹³ Sixty-Second Report of the Public Schools of the State of Missouri, Jefferson City, Mo.: The Hugh Stephens Printing Company, 1911.

¹⁴ Administrative Committee of the Cooperative Study of Rural Education and Rural Life, Missouri Looks at Her Rural Schools, December 1946, p.4.

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Hudson City School
Bates County, Missouri

School is still in use on the north side of Missouri 52 approximately one mile southeast of the original Hudson City School.) The last year for one-room schools in Missouri was 1973, when the final 25 were closed.¹⁵

Esther Gilbreth, the last teacher at the Hudson City School, began teaching there in the 1930s (as Miss Esther Schapeler). Mrs. Gilbreth recalled that a teacher's life in a one-room school was often very challenging. She described her experience at Hudson as "busy from the time I stepped up on the rock steps and turned the key to open the door." To get a head start, much of the lesson for the upper grades--history, science, geography and language arts--was written on the blackboard the evening before. The school day typically started with some basic building maintenance, since the one-room school instructor usually had to be janitor as well as teacher: "Now fire up the furnace with a big bucket of coal to warm the building before the children arrived; hurry to refill the coal bucket again. Then get the water bucket, go out to pump and fill the five gallon water cooler with fresh water." A large sheet of tagboard with the daily schedule of subjects, grade and time hung in a prominent place. "While the lower grades studied spelling, worked arithmetic problems on the blackboard, read and studied phonic pronouncing words, the upper grades prepared for their time to recite the work that had been assigned on the blackboard. Spelling was oral or written; good writing was stressed," Mrs. Gilbreth recalled. After the students went home, she said, the teacher had more janitorial tasks to perform such as sweeping and cleaning the room, carrying out stove ashes, banking the fire for overnight, carrying in more coal, checking both toilets and cleaning the water cooler.

By the time Mrs. Gilbreth taught at Hudson City School, salaries were higher than when Miss Pulliam was at the helm--\$80 per month instead of \$50. (\$80 was the same salary received by Hudson City School teacher Pauling Robinson in 1927.)¹⁶ Sometimes teachers stayed with the families of their students, perhaps with a different family each year, but Mrs. Gilbreth stayed with her parents who lived a few miles away until her marriage during World War Two. Although her paychecks were not large, Mrs. Gilbreth found the work itself endlessly rewarding: "To me these were days of joy with the children, loving them as I taught them how to read and good discipline as I played with them." Some of the games Mrs. Gilbreth played with her students were "Red Rover, Black Man, Andy Over and baseball." She said that "when snow fell, we brought our sleds." Recess and the lunch period were shortened, "and this gave a nice long play period to go sled-riding on Grandpa McElhaney's hill. This was a very special time."

Mrs. Gilbreth taught at Hudson for many years. She became a member of the four-teacher faculty when the new consolidated Hudson schoolhouse of Reorganized School District R-9 opened in 1952.

On October 8, 1952, School District R-9 sold the Hudson schoolhouse along with one square acre of land to the Hudson Country Culture Club, a community organization. This was not uncommon; former one-room schoolhouses were ideal sites for meetings and various community affairs, and were often the only building in their rural area with enough space for such activities. The Hudson City School remains in use today as a community center and 4-H Club meeting facility.

Although the number of extant one-room schoolhouses in Bates County is unknown (Bates County's architectural resources have not been systematically surveyed), the old Hudson City School probably would be locally significant regardless under Criterion A for Education. It strongly retains integrity from 1911 when it was converted

¹⁵ Leslie C. Swanson, Rural One-Room Schools of Mid-America, Moline, IL: Leslie Swanson, 1970, 1984, pp.30-31.

¹⁶ Seventy-Eighth Missouri Report of Public Schools of Missouri, Jefferson City, Mo.: The Hugh Stephens Printing Company, 1927, p. 20. The spelling of "Pauling" is from the Report.

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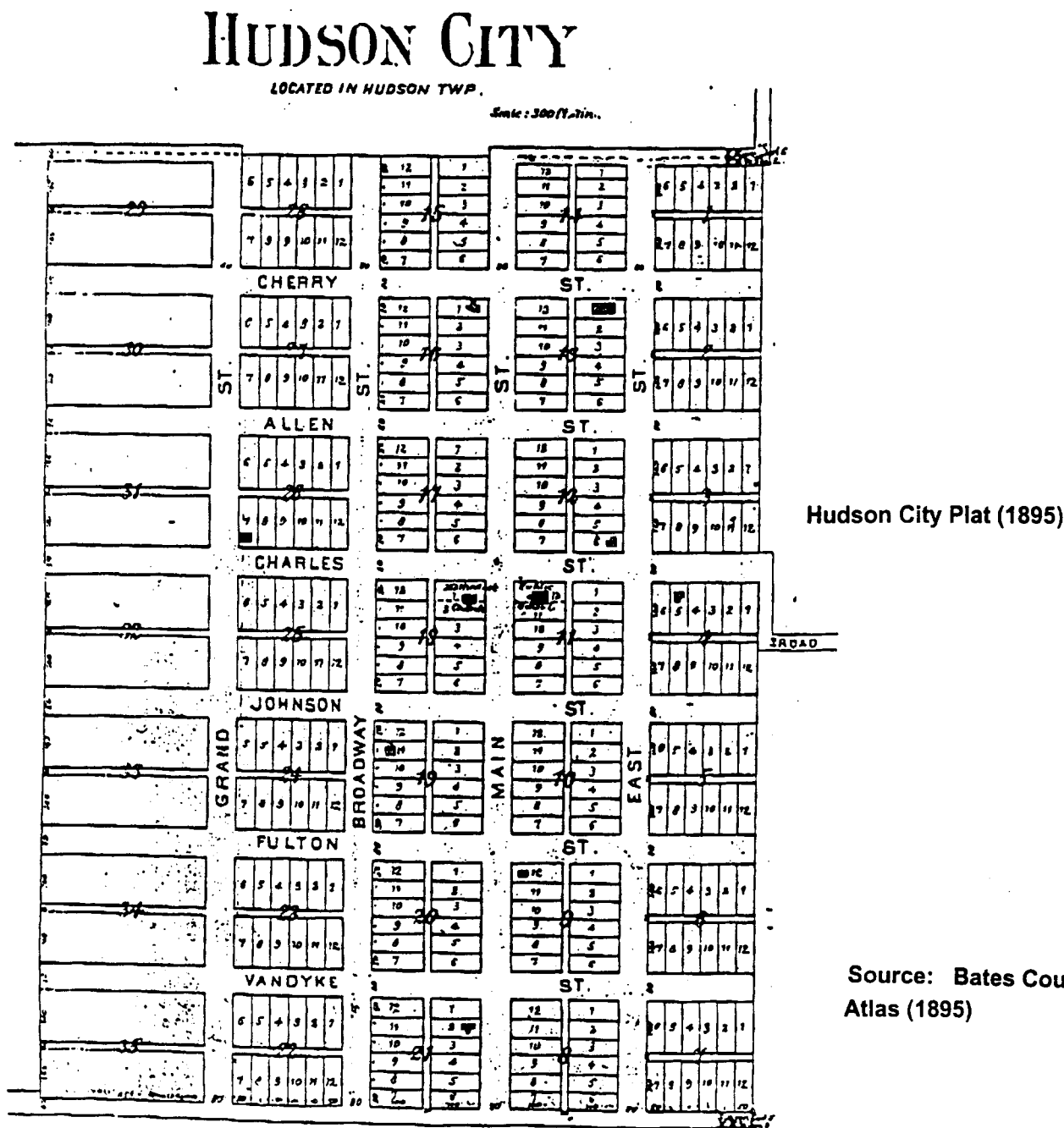
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Hudson City School
Bates County, Missouri

from a church to a schoolhouse. Hudson City School is perhaps unique in Bates County for its church-to-schoolhouse conversion.

Although the number of extant one-room schoolhouses in Bates County is unknown (Bates County's architectural resources have not been systematically surveyed), the old Hudson City School probably would be locally significant regardless under Criterion A for Education. It strongly retains integrity from 1911 when it was converted from a church to a schoolhouse. Hudson City School is perhaps unique in Bates County for its church-to-schoolhouse conversion.

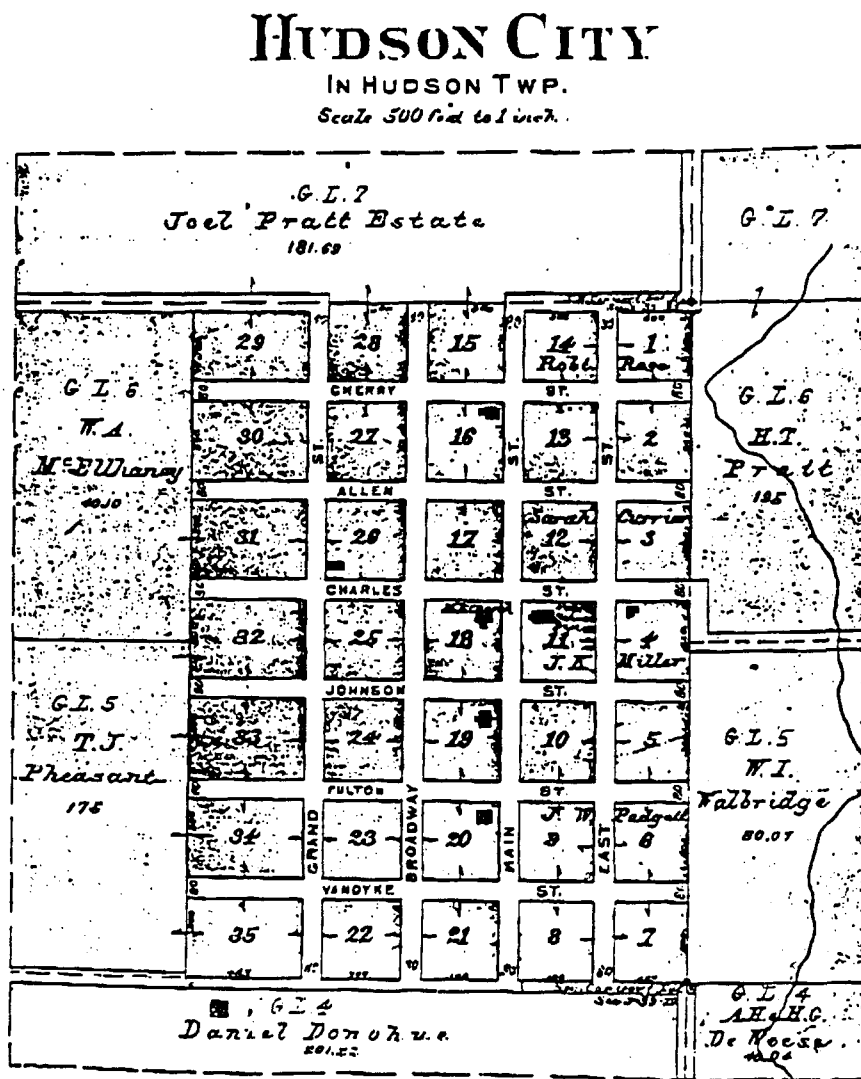


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Hudson City School
Bates County, Missouri



Hudson City Plat (1910)

Source: Bates County Atlas (1910)

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Hudson City School
Bates County, Missouri



FIRST HUDSON CITY SCHOOL
EAST SIDE OF STREET

BEFORE 1900

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Hudson City School
Bates County, Missouri



"NEW" HUDSON SCHOOL
CIRCA 1911

WEST SIDE OF STREET
FORMER METHODIST CHURCH

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Hudson City School
Bates County, Missouri



Hudson School Class Photo (April 21, 1916)

Photo Source: Maxine Piepmeier

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Hudson City School
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10. Verbal Boundary Description

The Hudson City School occupies one square acre in the northeast corner of Block 18 of Hudson City, Hudson Township, Bates County, Missouri. Block 18 is located in Lots 5 and 6 of the Northeast Quarter of Section 3 in Township 39 of Range 29. The boundary is described as follows: Beginning at a point 40 feet east and 40 feet north of the northeast corner of Block 18, proceed west 13 rods (214.5 feet); then proceed south 12 1/3 rods (approximately 203.5 feet); then proceed east 13 rods (214.5 feet); then proceed north 12 1/3 rods (approximately 203.5 feet) to the place of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The one acre plot represents all of the land historically associated with Hudson City School.

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Hudson City School
Bates County, Missouri

Photographs

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Hudson City School
Appleton City vicinity
Bates County, Missouri
Taken by Maxine Piepmeier
June 2001

Negatives on file with Cultural Resource Inventory, State Historic Preservation Office, Missouri Department of Natural Resources

1. Schoolyard with schoolhouse and privy as seen from county road, facing west.
2. East and north elevations, facing southwest.
3. South elevation, facing north.
4. View facing northwest.
5. East gable end, facing west.
6. West gable end, facing southeast.
7. Rear porch, facing northeast.
8. Interior, north wall of classroom, facing north.
9. South wall of classroom with chalkboard, facing south.
10. West wall of classroom, facing west.
11. Detail of iron stove in west end of classroom, facing west.

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Hudson City School
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Privy

Site Plan with Photo Angles

